



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/996,278 | 11/28/2001 | David Guedalia | NMS03-14 | 2332 |

22468 7590 07/05/2006

CHAPIN & HUANG L.L.C.
WESTBOROUGH OFFICE PARK
1700 WEST PARK DRIVE
WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581

EXAMINER

PHAN, JOSEPH T

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2614

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,278

Applicant(s)

GUEDALIA ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph T. Phan

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20-22, 25-27, 30-32, 35-37 and 40-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20-22, 25-27, 30-32, 35-37, and 40-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20-22, 25-27, 30-32, 35-37, and 40-42

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Owensby, Patent

#6,647,257.

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Owensby teaches a system and method for providing enhanced quality audio streaming(Fig.1), the system and method comprising:

an audio streaming server providing an audio stream, a client including a buffer storing at least portions of said audio stream received from said audio streaming server(Fig.2 and col.19 lines 5-18), a buffer status sensor operative to monitor the contents of said buffer, said buffer status sensor comprising an audio sampler sampling portions of said audio stream, wherein said audio sampler is voice command responsive(col.22 lines 35-55 and col.18 lines 58-67); and

a client audio output enhancer operative in response to an output from said buffer status sensor for providing a modified audio stream output including inserted pre-recorded informational audio segments which were not received from said audio

streaming server(Fig.2 and col.19-20 line 10-67)

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 2 and 12 and wherein said inserted audio segments comprise advertisements (col.19 lines 5-18)

Regarding claims 6 and 16, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 1 and 11 and wherein said client comprises a telephone(12 and 20 Fig.1)

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 1 and 11 wherein said client comprises a telephone and an IVR(21 Fig.1)

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 1 and 11 and wherein said client provides a real time output(col.19 lines 5-67).

Regarding claim 21 and 31, Owensby teaches a system and method for providing sophisticated seeking in an audio stream(Fig.1), the system and method comprising an audio streaming server providing an audio stream an audio sampler, intermittently sampling portions of said audio stream, wherein said audio sampler is voice command responsive(col.22 lines 35-55 and col.18 lines 58-67);

an audio sampling store, storing said portions sampled by said audio sampler; and an audio stream portion navigating seeker operative to sequentially render said portions; and inserting at least one informational audible tone among said portions rendered thereby(Fig.2 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Regarding claims 22 and 32, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 21 and 31 operative to sample complete phrases(Fig.2 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Regarding claims 25 and 35, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 21 and 31 and wherein said audio sampler samples portions which are selected generally periodically(Fig.2 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Regarding claims 26 and 36, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 21 and 31 and wherein said audio stream portion navigating seeker is operative to render via a telephone(Fig.2 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Regarding claims 27 and 37, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 21 and 31 and wherein said audio stream portion navigating seeker is operative to render via an IVR and a telephone(Fig.1 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Regarding claims 30 and 40, Owensby teaches a system and method according to claims 21 and 31 and also comprising a user operative, seeking responsive audio stream renderer, operative to render the audio stream beginning from a sampled portion selected by a user(Fig.2 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Regarding claims 41 and 42, Owensby teaches the method of claim 11 and system of claim 1 wherein said client audio output enhancer provides audible cues from a sample of audio selected by a user, enabling said user to better orientate said user with said audio stream(Fig.2 and col.18 line 58-col.19 line 67).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20-22, 25-27, 30-32, 35-37, and 40-42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new

ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T. Phan whose telephone number is (571) 272-7544. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JTP
June 23, 2006



**OVIDIO ESCALANTE
PATENT EXAMINER**

